

BUILTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

1944.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1944. This report is prepared on the lines indicated in Circular 49/45 Wales and is therefore again restricted. It should be noted that the restrictions, on grounds of national security, previously imposed on the population figures in the Annual Report, publication of communications to the Press etc., and on references to activities in connection with war-time industrial, military or other important developments, such as extensions of water supply or sewerage works, or other public utility undertakings, have now been removed.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population Figures. These have been supplied by the Registrar General.

<u>1939.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1944.</u>
3731.	3895.	4343.	4103.	3901	3869.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Birthrate.</u>
1939.....			71.....	13.7.
1939.....			54.....	14.4.
1940.....	24.....	28.....	52.....	13.3.
1941.....	35.....	25.....	60.....	13.8.
1942.....	42.....	24.....	66.....	16.0.
1943.....	38.....	38.....	76.....	19.5.
1944.....	40.....	27.....	67.....	17.6.
England & Wales, 1944.....				17.6.

Illegitimate Births. Two of the above births were illegitimate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			3.....	0.7.
1939.....			7.....	1.8.
1940.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	0.3.
1941.....	2.....	3.....	5.....	1.1.
1942.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.4.
1943.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	0.7.
1944.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
England & Wales, 1944.....				0.5.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			47.....	12.2.
1939.....			48.....	12.7.
1940.....	29.....	19.....	48.....	12.5.
1941.....	34.....	25.....	59.....	13.7.
1942.....	22.....	28.....	50.....	12.2.
1943.....	27.....	17.....	44.....	11.2.
1944.....	19.....	14.....	33.....	8.6.
England & Wales, 1944.....				11.6.

Builth Rural District Council.

2.

<u>Infantile Mortality.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			2.....	28..
1939.....			4.....	74.
1940.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	52.
1941.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	18
1942.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	30.3.
1943.....	2.....	3.....	5.....	69.
1944.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	15.
England & Wales, 1944.....				46.

<u>Analysis of causes of Death.</u>	<u>Males...19.</u>	<u>Females...14.</u>
-------------------------------------	--------------------	----------------------

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>M..F.</u>
Acute encephalitis.....	1..0.
Cancer.....	3..2.
Diabetes.....	1..0.
Intracranial vascular lesions.....	0..2.
Heart disease.....	5..4.
Other circulatory diseases.....	0..1.
Bronchitis.....	0..1.
Pneumonia.....	3..0.
Ulcer stomach.....	1..0.
Other digestive diseases.....	0..1.
Road traffic accidents.....	1..0.
Other violent causes.....	1..0.
All other causes.....	3..3.

Infectious Disease.

The following cases of infectious disease were reported to me during the year,

Acute pneumonia.....	4 cases.
Acute encephalitis....	1 case.
Whooping Cough.....	1 case.
Scarlet Fever.....	2 cases.

The case of whooping cough and both cases of scarlet fever were all admitted to Northyr Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year the monthly clinics held for the purpose of immunising children against diphtheria were continued. In addition advisory visits were made by the County Council Health Visitor and advertisements were placed in the local press.

The position at the end of the year as regards North Breconshire is shown by the following;

	<u>1-5.</u>	<u>5-15.</u>
Estimated number of children between the ages of 1 and 15 years on 31.12.44.....	1589.	3883
Estimated number of the above children who were immunised by 31.12.44.....	981.	3465.
Percentages immunised on 31.12.44.....	62%.	89%.
Children immunised during the year.....	225.	38.

3. Builth Rural District Council.

Number of cases of diphtheria in children of under 15 years notified during the year.....1.

Number of deaths from diphtheria in the year.....0.

Veneral Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in the district in recent years.

Number of cases on the register at the commencement of year...9.

Number of cases added to register during the year.....2.

Number of deaths during the year.....0.

Number of cases removed by recovery or other ways.....1.

Number of cases left on register at the end of the year.....10.

Number of notifications in recent years.....

1939.....	2.
1940.....	1.
1941.....	1.
1942.....	2.
1943.....	0.
1944.....	2.

Infestation. Rats and mice.

As a result of the Infestation Order, 1943, a part time Rodent Officer was appointed towards the end of the year to undertake the destruction of rats and mice for the three Councils of Builth Rural, Builth Urban and Llanwrttyd Urban.

Milk Sampling.

During the year milk sampling was carried out in accordance with the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. A District Laboratory was set up in Builth Wells and samples of all producer retailer milk was tested regularly. These samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspector. All wholesale milk is tested as a routine at the various milk depots and creameries. Under this scheme milk is now graded into three categories i.e.,

Category A.....Milk of good keeping quality.

Category B.....Milk of doubtful keeping quality.

Category C.....Milk of poor keeping quality which is returnable to the vendor.

On the receipt of samples of Category C milk advisory visits are made to the farm concerned by an official of the War Agricultural Executive Committee and if no improvement occurs as a result of these visits the producer is referred to the Local Authority for any action that may be deemed necessary.

The following figures show the results of the samples taken throughout the year;

Total samples taken.....	109.
Category A samples.....	90.
Category B samples.....	9.
Category C samples.....	10.

No producer was referred to the Council by the War Executive Committee during the year.



Sanitary Officer. A summary of the work done by the Sanitary Inspector during the year is given below. This is taken from the weekly reports.

Visits to Oaklands scavenging.....	48.
Visits to cowsheds.....	62.
Fumigation of premises.....	3.
Rat infestation course.....	3 days.
Inspection of premises.....	9.
Inspection of water supplies.....	9.
Water sampling.....	5.
Interviews with owners of property.....	3.
Visits of proposed sites of new houses.....	4 days.
Letters to owners of property.....	1.
Rat infestation meetings.....	3.
Meetings in Brecon.....	10.
Inspection unfit food.....	1.
Collecting petrol licences.....	1.
Council meetings, work as salvage officer, etc.	

### Housing.

As a result of Circular 64/44 Wales and the report on rural housing prepared by a Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee a start was made in the County for securing improvement of rural housing.

A Technical Sub-Committee of the Joint County Committee was established and a suggested standard of a habitable house was drawn up. The above report also recommended that a comprehensive survey of housing conditions in rural areas should be made and the houses grouped into certain categories.

It is to be regretted that, at the end of the year under review, no start had been made on this survey.

### Water Supplies.

The water supplies to the various parts of the district remain substantially the same as in the previous year. No complaints are received regarding the quality of the water but the quantity often falls short. There is room for considerable improvement in the water supplies to the whole area. Towards the end of the year a consulting water engineer was engaged by the Council to investigate the possibility of a large water scheme with its source at Abergwesin. It was hoped that this water could supply the greater part of the district. It is to be hoped that some such scheme will materialise.

It is estimated that only about 15 per cent of the houses in the area are supplied with water by the Council. Of these about 75 per cent are supplied with a tapped supply inside the house, the remainder being supplied by standpipes. Owing to the fact that the district is a scattered rural one the remaining 85 % of the houses have their own private supplies.

It is safe to say that the great majority of the supplies could be greatly improved both from a quantitative and qualitative point of view for in periods of even moderate drought continual complaints are received.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health.